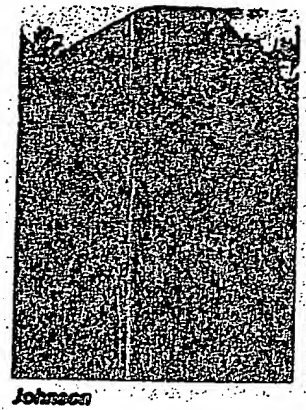
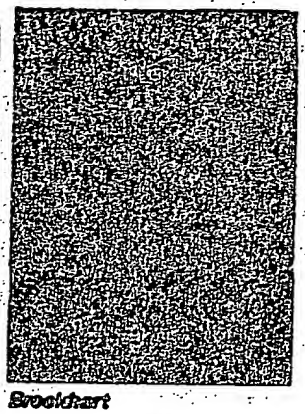
Cooperative polymer research awardees announced

The ACS Division of Polymeric Materials: Science & Engineering will present the 1998 Award for Cooperative Research in Polymer Science & Engineering jointly to Lynda K. Johnson, a scientist at DuPont Central R&D in Wilmington, Del., and Maurice Brookhart, professor of chemistry at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.



Johnson



Brookhart

The award recognizes sustained cooperative research between industrial, academic, and/or national laboratory polymer scientists that has resulted in the innovation and development of polymeric materials or technology of significant importance. The annual award is sponsored by Eastman Kodak. Each recipient receives a plaque, and they split $2,000. The award will be presented during a luncheon at the ACS national meeting in Dallas, March 29–April 2, 1998.

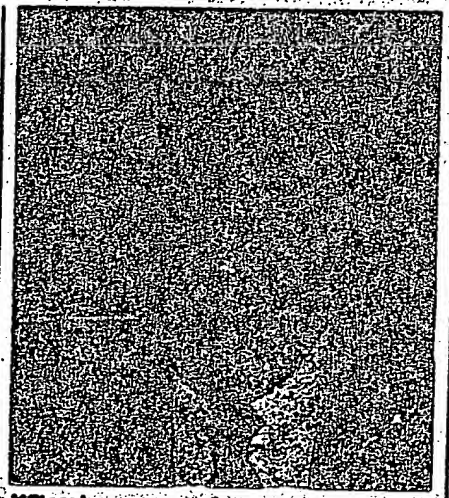
Johnson and Brookhart are receiving the award for the discovery of sterically hindered late-transition-metal catalysts, which have led to the UNC-DuPont Versipol polymerization system. These catalysts allow the preparation of branched olefins solely from ethylene and the incorporation of polar monomers into polyolefins.

The concept and initial experimental work leading to the development of the catalysts began at UNC with Brookhart and Johnson, who was at the time a postdoctoral fellow in Brookhart's lab. The work was funded, in part, by DuPont, and Johnson is now the central investigator in DuPont's polymerization catalyst group. The members of the Brookhart group and the DuPont team have worked together to expand the patent base, develop a sound mechanistic understanding of the catalysts, and characterize the resulting highly branched polyolefins formed by Versipol catalysts.

Witczak receives Burlew Award

Zbigniew J. Witczak, assistant professor of natural products chemistry at the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, has received the 1997 John S. Burlew Award from the ACS Connecticut Valley Section. The award is given to a section member for excellence in research and consists of an honorarium and a plaque.

Witczak was recognized for his contributions to carbohydrate chemistry, particularly for the use of the carbohydrate synthon levoglucosenone in organic synthesis. Witczak's research led to the development of new fucosidase inhibitors as prototypes of potential carbohydrate anticancer and antimetastasis agents.



Witczak

Witczak received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the Medical Academy, Lodz, Poland.

Organic chemistry fellowships awarded

The ACS Division of Organic Chemistry has selected 19 students to receive 1997–98 graduate student fellowships. Third- and fourth-year doctoral students are eligible for the fellowships and are selected based on their research accomplishments, the quality of their research, and a letter from their mentor or adviser.

The following students received $15,000 fellowships for the 1997–98 academic year:

Victor M. Arredondo is a fourth-year graduate student at Northwestern University st cDonald research and To d organ- is in or ic synt develop- ing lan s for the synthe ived the Wyeth lowship.

EXHIBIT I

Jeffrey Axten is a fourth-year graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania studying under Jeffrey D. Winkler. Axten is researching the synthesis of the antitumor alkaloid manzamine A. He received the Abbott Laboratories Fellowship.

Helen E. Blackwell is a fourth-year graduate student at California Institute of Technology studying under Robert H. Grubbs. Blackwell has studied the application of olefin metathesis for the preparation of rigid polypeptides. She received the Pfizer Inc. Fellowship.

Michael A. Brodney is a fourth-year graduate student at Emory University, Atlanta, studying under Albert Padwa. Brodney is working on the rhodium-catalyzed tandem cyclization of α-diazo imides for the construction of polycyclic skeletons found in the Erythrinane and Lycopodium alkaloid families. He received the DuPont Merck Pharmaceutical Co. Fellowship.

Rebecca L. Calvo is a third-year graduate student at the State University of New York, Buffalo, studying under Huw M. L. Davies. Calvo is working to synthesize CP-263,114, a potent inhibitor of squalene farnesyltransferase. She received the Hoechst Marion Roussel Fellowship.

Michael L. Chabinyc is a fourth-year graduate student at Stanford University studying under John L. Beauman. Chabinyc researches gas-phase ion chemistry, particularly the energetics of hydrogen-bonded complexes. He received an Organic Syntheses Inc. Fellowship.

Christopher Cox is a fourth-year graduate student at Johns Hopkins University